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Congress

Committee on Coöperation

in

Latin America

From the editor of the largest daily in Rio de Janeiro and one of the most influential citizens of South America:

"While we are now being visited by great numbers of commercial, financial, and other committees, your Committee on Coöperation is fully alive to the primary necessities of our people. They want, not a business intercourse wherefrom they will increase their own wealth, but they strive to have us come to Christ and to keep ourselves all profit from it. I earnestly hope that you may accomplish all that you are planning."

DR. JOSÉ C. RODRIGUEZ,
of *Journal of Commerce.*

From a North American expert on Missions:

"The Panama Congress has surpassed not only the World Congress of 1910, but all others in the speedy mobilization of the varied forces called for by the discussions and papers heard there. Not a sign of flagging interest is discernible in the various committees entrusted with large coöperative responsibilities in Latin America and in North America. The almost unbelievable work that has already been accomplished is beyond any missionary precedent. . . . Scientifically conducted investigations, sane and frank discussions, wise conclusions prayerfully reached, followed by local application of the well planned program to local needs, constitute an achievement not reached hitherto by any great conference of Christians."

PROF. HARLAN P. BEACH,
of Yale University.

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UNITING THE SPIRITUAL FORCES OF LATIN AMERICA

The Congress on Christian Work in Latin America met at Panama, February 10-20, 1916. Probably never before was there gathered together such a body of Christian leaders of the various American nations as met at that Congress. There were representatives from twenty-two countries and more than fifty different denominational and interdenominational organizations.

The discussions of the Congress centred around the reports of eight commissions, which represented the labor of a large number of experts for more than a year previous. These reports, which have been published in three large volumes, together with the discussion of them at Panama, represent the most thorough and scientific investigations of the social, educational, and spiritual life of Latin America ever brought together.

Facing, as it did, the opportunity of helping to meet the needs of Latin America as presented in these reports, the Congress appointed the Committee on Coöperation in Latin America as a continuation committee to give effect to the findings of the various commissions and to advance in all possible ways the cooperative program of the missionary forces in these fields. This committee now officially represents practically all the Mission Boards doing work in Latin

America, thirty-one societies having elected members up to the present time. An office has been established at the Interdenominational Missionary Headquarters at 25 Madison Avenue, New York City, under the direction of the Executive Secretary. This office is rapidly becoming a clearing house for the Mission Boards, a center of coöperative activities, and a bureau of information for all interested in Latin America.

The following sub-committees are at work:

Survey and Occupation. To make a continuous study of the fields in order to furnish accurate information to Mission Boards and to promote the proper distribution of the present forces and call in such new ones as are needed to meet the spiritual necessities of the field.

Education. To aid the Mission Boards and Churches in Latin America to develop adequate educational enterprises, especially by means of federation, coöperation, and union of forces.

Literature. To lead in the production of a Christian literature for Latin America, both as relates to books and periodicals.

Home Base. To stimulate interest among the churches and general public in North America in a brotherly effort to aid the development of the spiritual forces of Latin America.

Finance. To provide the funds necessary for the advancement of the practical program of Christian Union as undertaken by the Committee on Coöperation in Latin America.

The following activities of the Committee are indicative of the kind of service it is rendering:

An Annotated Bibliography of the best books in Spanish for the development of the intellectual and spiritual life has been published by the Committee. Five missionaries, loaned by their boards for several months, have just completed this work. Nothing of the kind has heretofore existed and we are already assured of its value, not only to evangelical workers, but to schools, colleges, and libraries in North and South America, which are showing deep interest in it.

A Survey of Cuba is now being made by an investigator who has been sent to the island by the Committee for the purpose of making a thorough study of educational, social, and religious conditions there. At the conclusion of this survey, which will take about six months, the secretaries of the boards having work in Cuba, and the Executive Secretary of the Committee, will go to Cuba to hear the reports of the survey. With the accurate information afforded them by these reports they will be enabled to plan a larger and more effective program for the evangelization of the island.

Seven Volumes of Reports are being published by the Committee covering the investigations and conclusions of the Panama Congress and the Regional Conferences from every angle. The official reports of the commissions, the discussions, addresses, and proceedings, in three large volumes; a brief history of the Congress and its accomplishments in a popular form, in one volume; a similar popular volume in Spanish and one in Portuguese, each written by one of the foremost Christian leaders in Latin America; and a final volume reporting the Regional Conferences.

Christian Literature in Spanish and Portuguese is pitiably inadequate. To meet this situation the Committee has set before itself the immediate task of providing as soon as possible the following imperative needs: Handbook on Principles and Practice of Personal Work; Handbook on Methods of Social Service and Community Betterment; One-volume Commentary on the Bible; Book on Principles of Religious Education; Book on Apologetics; A Young People's Weekly (somewhat similar to the Youth's Companion).

An Educational Secretary for South America who will represent the Committee on Coöperation in the development of union educational enterprises and lend assistance to all Mission Schools in their efforts toward improved service, is called for by the field and is now being sought.

An Editorial Secretary to give his whole time to developing new literature and improving the present forms of literary activity carried on by mission presses, is a need that must be met.

A Union Theological Seminary for Mexico can be put down as practieally an achievement of the Committee. At a recent meeting of those interested, three Mission Boards agreed to each allocate a professor who is to proceed at once to the opening of the school in Mexico City. Other societies committed to the project are considering the mode of their participation.

A Union Seminary in Montevideo which will provide advanced training for ministers equal to that provided by the state for candidates for other professions, is now being organized. Recognizing that if evangelical ministers are to reach the educated classes such a school is indispensable, the Mission Boards are giving their hearty support to its inauguration.

Evangelistic and Apologetic Lectures in theatres, public halls, and school auditoriums, to reach the general public whose intellectual attitude will not permit their attending meetings in evangelical churches, are being planned. University professors from North America and Europe and specially prepared Latin-American leaders are being sought to undertake this work under the direction of the Committee.

Uniting of Denominational Papers published in Latin-American countries where there is often a marked duplication of effort, adversely affecting circulation and general usefulness, is being encouraged. In Porto Rico all the papers have been recently merged into one, which is supported by seven communions and has the largest circulation of any newspaper on the island.

Encouraging Field Committees, which were appointed by the Regional Conferences following the Panama Congress, is a responsibility assumed by the Committee. These Regional Conferences, held in seven great centers of Latin America, mapped out a practical program of cooperative advance along all lines of work. Already the Committee has secured the allocation of a missionary in Porto Rico for all of his time to push this work, and plans to assist each of the Regional Committees in some such way.

A Visit to the Field by the Executive Secretary at an early date has been authorized by the Committee in order to encourage the work of the Regional Committees and to pursue further investigation necessary for the proper planning of proposed work.

Other Activities which the Committee proposes or has been requested to foster by the Mission Boards are:

A Publicity Bureau to supply information for publication in both North America and Latin America, a Year Book

of Latin-American Missions, Union Normal Schools for Cuba and Peru, Union Colleges in Porto Rico and Mexico, and the federation of Mission Schools in Brazil.

The following are the recent publications of the Committee on Coöperation in Latin America:

The Official Report of the Panama Congress, containing full Commission Reports, discussions, addresses, and statistics. Three volumes, cloth, $2.50.

The Report of the Regional Conferences, an exhaustive review of the proceedings and reports of the Regional Conferences. One volume, cloth, $1.00.

Renaissant Latin America, a popular history of the Congress by Prof. Harlan P. Beach, of Yale University. Cloth, $1.00.

Popular History of the Congress, in Portuguese, by Prof. Erasmo Braga, of Brazil. Cloth, $1.00.

Popular History of the Congress, in Spanish, by Prof. Eduardo Monteverde, of the University of Montevideo. Cloth, $1.00.

The Report on Message and Method, being the report of Commission II of the Panama Congress. Paper, 10c.

Spanish Bibliography. An annotated list of books in the Spanish language of value to evangelical workers and all Latin-Americans interested in intellec-

tual and spiritual culture, together with the names of publishers and the prices at which books may be obtained. Heavy paper, 20c.

The committee also circulates

Proceedings of the Conference on Latin America held in New York City in March, 1913. Paper, 20c.

Tourist Guide of Latin-American Missions, intended for the visitor to Latin America. Gratis to travelers.

Address all inquiries to Samuel Guy Inman, Executive Secretary, 25 Madison Avenue, New York City.

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